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HISTORY OF PLAGUE IN MEXICO.

Plague at Ensenada.

It would appear from the following correspondence that there have been, so far as known, 14 cases of plague and 13 deaths, to date; that presumably the disease was brought to Ensenada from Mazatlan, though this is not proved; and, as stated by Dr. Grubbs in his letter of December 26, 1902, it is probable that the disease was brought to Mazatlan by Chinese direct from China, or transshipped as is done at San Francisco, it being indicated that this traffic has been carried on, the Chinese going to Mazatlan by San Francisco without landing at San Francisco, and afterwards making their way to Ensenada, which is within 70 miles of San Diego, Ensenada being a more available place from which to smuggle themselves across the border.

The last officially reported case was on December 25, 1902, and the Bureau has appointed Dr. Alexander, a resident of Ensenada, as acting assistant surgeon for enforcing the regulations regarding the departures to the United States, and through the customs authorities on the border for inspecting those that may cross overland, which traffic, it is reported, is very light.

The following correspondence will give a review of the outbreak at Ensenada, Mexico, and the measures that have been taken looking to the protection of the United States from the said Mexican port:

SAN DIEGO, CAL., *December 8, 1902.*

The president of the local health board has information from physician of Ensenada, Mexico, that 10 cases and 10 deaths by very suspicious disease have occurred there since middle of October. First case in Chinaman, rest in Mexicans, last death on December 5. Sickness lasts from two to eight days and glandular swellings have been observed. Rats dying. There is traffic by steamer with this port 6 times a month, also some overland travel. Health authorities here anxious to have an inspector sent to investigate.

DECKER.

The SURGEON GENERAL.

ENSENADA, MEXICO, *December 18, 1902.*

SIR: In compliance with your orders handed me at New Orleans on December 12, 1902. I have the honor to report my arrival at Ensenada on the 17th instant.

On my arrival I called upon the United States consul and then presented the letter of Dr. Liceaga to the collector of customs, who presented me to the governor of this district. Both he and the local health authority, Dr. B. H. Peterson, promised me all the assistance possible. I have, up to the present moment of leaving of the overland mail, examined into the histories of the 12 fatal cases that have occurred, in so far as I have been able, and inquiring into other cases of recovery that may have been the same disease. There are no cases, I believe, at this moment. * * *

Respectfully,

S. B. GRUBBS,
Passed Assistant Surgeon.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.